



NEWS RELEASE

US Army Corps of Engineers – Albuquerque District

For Information Contact: Joan Mier/342-3171

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Pueblo of Santa Ana host groundbreaking for two projects to help endangered species

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. --- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Albuquerque District and the Pueblo of Santa Ana will host a formal groundbreaking ceremony for two projects designed to assist in the recovery of endangered species. The ceremony will take place Friday at 2 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort Events Center at 1300 Tuyuna Trail, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM.

The \$6.5 million riparian and wetland restoration project consists of building two grade restoration facilities and a bed sill to be placed in the Rio Grande channel. The purpose of these structures is to halt channel degradation and promote habitat more conducive to the endangered silvery minnow. It is one of the largest projects so far in the middle Rio Grande that is geared toward enhancing the habitat for the minnow. The project is being cost-shared with the federal government paying 75 percent and the Pueblo paying 25 percent.

The other project is the construction of a 700-foot long weir in the upper reaches of the former Jemez Reservoir that will span the channel of the Jemez River. The \$2 million

-more-

project is being built to mitigate for the draining of the reservoir. The weir will prevent channel incision and promote maintaining the current water table in the area, which will preserve the unique environmental habitat, especially that which is needed for the recovery of the willow flycatcher. That project is 100 percent federally funded.

Both projects, which are being built in partnership with the Corps and the Pueblo, should be completed by the summer of 2004.